

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 14, lines 13-19, please replace the following paragraph:

As best illustrated in Figures 1 (a) and 1 (b), the stent (2) in general and a top area thereof in particular are formed with a front tapered region (12) and a rear tapered region (14). The front tapered region 12 extends rearwardly from a rounded front tip (16) of the leg portion ~~(6)~~ (4) and is provided to facilitate insertion of the stent into the tunnel during the surgery. The rear tapered region (14) slopes downwardly from an area in the vicinity of the junction between the cross portion (6) and the leg portion (4) toward the rear end of the stent.